



**An Daras Trust**  
Igniting Curiosity Growing Capabilities

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CEO: W. T. Hermon

07/02/24

### Minutes

#### **Learning, Standards & Safeguarding Committee Spring 2024 Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 9.30am at central office**

#### 1. **Welcome and Apologies**

**Present:** Margaret Savage (Chair), Claire Paul, Steve Tavener, Graeme Barriball, Gill Shippides, Will Hermon

**In Attendance:** Toni Martin (Governance Officer). Apologies from Jo Callow (Ex-Officio) who is currently involved in an Ofsted inspection.

The Chair welcomed everyone including Deborah Saunders who has organised a briefing under item 3.

#### 2. **Declarations of Interest/Pecuniary Interests relevant to this Agenda**

None declared.

#### 3. **Thinking Matters Briefing with Adam Broad**

Deborah Saunders organised a Thinking Matters Briefing with Adam Broad via Teams who joined the meeting at this point. The presentation lasted for 20 minutes and covered the guiding principles and the progress evidence that will be used when developing metacognition and self-regulation. He highlighted the plan up to March 2025 and noted that it will be a gradual implementation over time. He explained how the impact of this work will be measured and the tools that will be used to do this such as school self-evaluation, baselining, learner scales, meta-mirrors and accreditation software. He noted that An Daras has a very clear and well established vision around curriculum intent which is an excellent start to this work and they look forward to working with this trust.

The Chair thanked AB for the briefing. **AB was asked about his background and whether he worked in a team**; he explained that the team all have an education background with a blend of other skills. **How does this affect the staff and their workload, and has it been well received?** The staff have had a positive experience with Visible Learning so far and witnessed the impact of this. As we would rightly expect, the staff continue to challenge but are positive about this work, and it is designed to make the workload easier while increasing the impact on the children's learning.

Adam Broad and Deborah Saunders left the meeting at 10am.

#### 4. **Confirm minutes of previous LSS Autumn (27<sup>th</sup> September 2023) and matters arising**

- Update on progress analysis and initiatives (WH). *See item 7.*

- Drafted SEF to audit committee in December 23 (WH). *Discussed at Audit committee on 6 Dec 23 (item 7). It was agreed that a colour coded front page would be added and it will be reviewed twice a year in the autumn and spring terms.*
- Revisit attendance figures (WH). *See item 12.*
- Add Thinking Matters briefing with Adam Broad to this agenda (DS to organise). *Covered in item 3 above.*

The Committee agreed the minutes and the Chair signed a copy.

## 5. Confidential Agenda Items

Item 6 is covered under confidential minutes.

## 6. Duchy Transfer

Covered under confidential minutes.

*All items below are the responsibility of this committee and were discussed by exception*

## 7. Data

*Including discussion on Internal & External Data on attainment & progress, including but not exclusively literacy and numeracy, include PPG/EAL & SEN as required.* WH noted the progress benchmark for next year has been removed. For the next couple of years, the DfE want to measure progress from end of foundation to end of KS2. This means that any school inspected in the next academic year, there will be no progress marker for the inspectors to measure against. WH reiterated that Ofsted are not looking at data as the curriculum is more important, but the committee confirmed that internally we will still be monitoring our attainment and progress. The committee agreed that while a positive learning experience, a comprehensive and well delivered curriculum is important, the children still need to be achieving and we must keep an eye on our attainment and progress. The cohort size is important to consider when looking at the data as well as the context behind it. WH noted the current data sets and LT was discussed in detail, including initiatives that will be put in place to make some small improvements. **The committee questioned the issues at the heart of this** and discussed this in detail.

## 8. Improvement

### a. MAT Improvement Plan

WH noted the current update that JC was due to give but is away on an Ofsted inspection. It was agreed that this update would be given in more detail by JC at the full Board [improvement plan already on the agenda for the full board].

### b. Improvement Officer Reports

The trust improvement programme is being run by JC and this will be updated in more detail at the full Board. **Action: Include this update under the Improvement item at the full Board (JC).**

### c. Ofsted Actions

Individual schools implement any Ofsted actions into their improvement plan. WH liaises with Heads and LGB Chairs with regard to this.

## 9. Curriculum, Learning & Christian Distinctiveness

### a. Review MAT curriculum

The An Daras capabilities curriculum is very flexible and all further work required is currently in hand. Wisdom, Knowledge and Capability are strategic themes that are

clearly defined end points for our children; a holistic approach to help the 'whole child'. The curriculum thus works on a strategic level and an operation level, it is a framework that allows things to be slotted in that work for our children's development. It works well with other concepts such as Visible Learning and Thinking Matters. It works well with the Church ethos and underpins theological thinking, particularly the 'Wisdom' aspect. The schools have been given a tool that allows the school to measure themselves against Wisdom, Knowledge and Capability and therefore dictates where the focus should be term by term going forward. This tool is part of the self-evaluation process and shows that impact is being monitored and how improvement is made. This is not only good for the staff, children and growth of the schools but should be seen positively by Ofsted. The key is the framework is flexible enough to move with the schools over time and allows them to slot in what is needed to improve. Deficiencies in the curriculum is now being assessed as we have enough evidence in place to do this now.

The committee questioned various aspects of this work, workload, how this is achieved and discussed this matter in detail. It was agreed that this gives the staff a practical tool to work with and doesn't overly increase their workload.

**b. Review Promotion of British Values**

The committee were content that the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical provision meet statutory regulations.

**c. Spiritual Development in line with Christian Foundation**

WH noted he will be sitting on the interview panel for Director of Education at the Diocese of Truro. The new training programme for Church School Flourishing was discussed and noted. It was reiterated that the curriculum framework works very well with the Christian ethos and is also very useful for SIAMS.

**10. Parents, Pupils & Staff**

**a. Parental Engagement**

This is now completed in the summer term. **Action: Add to LSS summer agenda and move this to summer term on cyclical plan (TM)**

**b. Staff Absence**

A couple of long term medical absences but no real issues or trends to reports.

**c. MAT Complaints**

WH noted there have been no complaints but updated the committee on a recent grievance that has been addressed.

**11. Learning Related Staff CPD/Training/Qualifications**

The committee were satisfied that all staff have PPA time in line with requirements and the couple of ECT across the trust are having their requirements met. WH noted that there is a new national CEO training programme, very competitive and only 25 spaces available; JC went for a rigorous interview progress and it is very positive that she has been selected to attend on the first cohort. The directors wished to congratulate her on this achievement and wished her well with the course.

**12. Safeguarding**

Latest S157 annual submission; CP declared that these will be done as a peer to peer review this year. No issues to report. Safeguarding training in date and prevent refresher training will be

completed next term. Following a brief discussion, the committee were content with safeguarding arrangements.

Attendance figures were discussed. WHA is above national average, the remaining schools are around national average so no major issues despite it being the season for colds and the usual winter illnesses. The difference between authorised and unauthorised absence was discussed, and the committee were content that the trust are doing everything they can to maintain good attendance.

### 13. **Equality and Accessibility**

Ensure understanding of, and adherence to, responsibilities under the Equalities Act, promoting equality and diversity throughout the MAT; this is all compliant. Reviewing accessibility planning for MAT schools is done on a three-year cycle and all published on the school websites. It was noted that NP is having some ramps put in, funded by the local authority, to allow accessibility for wheelchair users. The committee discussed various issues and were content that diversity is achieved across the trust.

### 14. **Safety**

Fire risk assessments in schools are up to date. The 3 new schools are being looked at currently by the project manager. It was noted that the pre-school at SSCA has moved from its building into the next building (the hub) and the old building will be condemned.

### 15. **Compliance**

a. **Cyber Security.** There have some issues with the company currently used for training, these have been on-going and a different provider may be sourced.

b. **GDPR.** All staff are doing GDPR training this year. No reportable issues have occurred.

c. **Whistleblowing.** Appropriate procedures and policy in place. No whistleblowing. Confide needs to be installed into the new schools.

### 16. **Policy Review**

a. Asbestos Management (SC). No changes. Approved.

b. Fire Prevention & Precaution (SC). New version, approved.

c. Safer Recruitment (SC). Minor amendments, approved.

d. Security (WH). Minor amendments. Approved.

e. British Values (JC). No changes. Approved.

f. Drug Awareness (WH). Minor amendments. Approved.

g. Inclusion (JC). Minor amendments. Approved.

h. Legionella (SC). Added to agenda due to some recent changes to Legionella guidance. Minor amendments. Approved.

### 17. **AOB**

GS offered some land for use for school activities; she will send TM details to pass on.

### 18. **DONM**

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the central office.

Meeting closed at 11.40 am.

TJH Martin

ADMAT Governance Officer

**Distribution List:**

W. Hermon – CEO Director  
M. Savage – Director (Chair)  
C. Paul – Director (Committee Vice)  
S. Tavener – Director (Board Chair)  
G. Barriball – Director  
G. Shipsides - Director  
J. Callow – Ex-Officio